

following day. It was placed in a low scrubby bush, hardly more than two feet from the ground, but, being surrounded by rather dense cane-brake, was got at only with considerable difficulty. It contained three young, a day or two old.

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XIX.—On a new Species of *Xenicus* from an Island off the Coast of New Zealand. By Sir WALTER L. BULLER, K.C.M.G., D.Sc., F.R.S.

(Plate VII.)

PROJECTING into Cook's Strait as a bold and salient point from the eastern shore of Blind Bay, and rising to a height of 2180 feet, is D'Urville Island, presenting a very broken and partially wooded surface. With a width of from five to six miles, it stretches away 17 miles to the northward, whilst to the south it is separated from the mainland by a very narrow channel known as the French Pass.

Lying two miles to the north-eastward of the northern extremity of D'Urville Island, and rising abruptly from the sea to a height of a thousand feet, is Stephens Island, only about a square mile in extent, and more or less wooded on its sides. From this island I have lately received a single specimen of a new species of *Xenicus*, entirely distinct from the two forms (*X. longipes* and *X. gilviventris*) inhabiting the mainland.

I have described this new bird, which may fittingly be called the Island-Wren, as distinguished from our Bush-Wren and Rock-Wren; and as these island-forms present features of special interest to the student of geographic zoology, I am forwarding the specimen itself in the hope that it may be figured.

My correspondent on the island informs me that the bird is semi-nocturnal in its habits, and that he has seen two other examples, all three of them having been brought in at different times by the cat.

I hope shortly to receive further specimens of this interesting form. In the meantime I regret that I am unable to



give the sex of the bird here described. In plumage it differs conspicuously from the other two species, and it has a decidedly more robust bill, whilst the claw on the hind toe is not larger than in *Xenicus longipes*.

*XENICUS INSULARIS*, sp. nov. (Plate VII.)

Upper surface generally dark olive, with brown margins to the feathers, presenting an obscurely spotted or mottled appearance; a minute whitish spot in front of and another underneath the eye; a narrow superciliary streak and the whole of the throat, fore neck, and breast, as well as the wings at their flexure, olivaceous yellow with darker margins; wings and tail, sides of the body, abdomen, croup, and under tail-coverts olivaceous brown. Plumage underneath plumbeous. Upper mandible dark brown with horn-coloured tip; under mandible, legs, and feet pale brown. Length 4 inches; wing from flexure 2; tail 0.75; bill along the ridge 0.75, along the edge of lower mandible 0.75; tarsus 0.75; middle toe and claw 1, hind toe and claw 0.7.

*Hab.* Stephens Island, Cook's Strait, N.Z.

XX.—*On Birds observed in Iceland in 1894, with a List of the Species hitherto recorded therefrom.* By HENRY J. and CHARLES E. PEARSON.

THE localities which have not been explored by British ornithologists are becoming so few that a short account of our expedition to the Southern Fiskevötn of Iceland—a district, we think, not before visited by Englishmen—may prove of interest.

We left Reykjavik on June 14th, 1894, with three men and 27 ponies, and arrived at Galtalækur, the last farm in this direction, on the 16th. Here we engaged a local guide, Kristofer Jörnsen (recommended by Mr. Nielsen, of Eyrarbakki), who proved to be a most capable man, though, unfortunately, he could not speak English. We left Galtalækur on the 17th and reached Audavatn, our camping-place in the Fiskevötn, at 8 P.M. on the 18th—a ride of 22